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Dear Mr. Spector:

[WAS]

In compliance with your request, I have listed some names of people working on mutation rates in the indicated organisms. However, I must admit to a lack of enthusiasm for the project. In fact, I hope very careful consideration was given to the probable value of such a tabulation. You are better aware of its context; to me it seems probably worthless, if for no other reason than that there is no absolute basis for stating a mutation rate: the rates depend not only on the environmental conditions and the stage of development of the organism, but also on the genetic background of the individual. In addition, the "selected rates", unless very carefully qualified are bound to be regarded as typical of the species, when in fact the ~~range~~ range over which rate measurements can be made is restricted by the technology of the organism. In the face of these qualifications, which are too numerous to be discussed in adequate detail in any handbook, I would seriously question what value the tabulation can have!

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

see over

H. J. Muller U/Indiana
 J. Gowen Iowa
 Patterson U/Texas
 Burdette Surgery Tulane U.
 Kaplan City-of-Hope Duarte, Calif.
 C. Stern U/Cal Berkeley
 Hollaender--ORNL
 Altenburg Rice Inst.

W. Braun Cmlc Camp Betrick, Md.
 F. J. Ryan Zoology Columbia Univ
 H. Demere Genetics Carnegie Inst., Cold Spring Harbor, L.I., N.Y.
 H. Newcombe Biology Atomic Energy of Canada, Ltd. Chalk River, Ont.
 A. Hollander Biology ORNL
 A. Novick Biophysics U/CHT

R. deLars Bacteriology U/Caltech
 J. Helge Biology Caltech
 S. Luria Bacteriology U/Illinois Urbana
 RA Brink U/Wis Genetics
 B. McClintock Genetics, Carnegie Inst., U/Caltech
 JR Laughnan U/Mo. Columbia,
 M. Rhoades Botany U.Ill., Urbana

M. Stahmann Biochem U/Wis
 J. Gowen Genetics Iowa

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R. deMars Bacteriology Washington U/St Louis
J. Weigle Biology CalTech
S. Luria Bacteriology U/Illinois Urbana
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